

RECOGNIZING CINCO DE MAYO
AND WELCOMING THE INLAND
EMPIRE MARIACHI YOUTH
GROUP TO WASHINGTON

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, this week is Cinco de Mayo week, a time to celebrate the tremendous courage and bravery of Mexican Americans. I have introduced House Concurrent Resolution 313. This resolution calls for a presidential proclamation to recognize the struggle of Mexican American people as we celebrate this holiday.

The Mexican American people have fought against great odds for their freedom. Cinco de Mayo is indeed a great day to be filled with celebration, symbolism, and remembrance. It is about culture, tradition, heritage, and pride. It marks the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the Battle of Puebla. Many of us come from different places, but we share a common bond: we are united and proud Mexican Americans.

I would also like to salute the students from the Inland Empire Mariachi Youth Education Foundation of Southern California, who have been performing this week in our Nation's capital. My daughter, Jennifer Baca, is one of those performing and exposing individuals to this culture, tradition and heritage as we celebrate Cinco de Mayo. It represents a dream come true for many of these students.

This Friday we will remember Cinco de Mayo. It is an important day in the history of Mexico and California.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 673, FLORIDA KEYS
WATER QUALITY IMPROVE-
MENTS ACT OF 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 483 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 483

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 673) to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants to the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority and other appropriate agencies for the purpose of improving water quality throughout the marine ecosystem of the Florida Keys. The first reading of the bill will be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infra-

structure. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER); pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 483 is an open rule, providing for the consideration of H.R. 673, the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Act of 2000. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The rule waives clause 4(a) of Rule XIII, requiring a 3-day layover of the committee report against consideration of the bill. The rule also makes in order the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as an original bill for the purpose of amendment, which shall be open for amendment at any point.

The rule allows the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and to reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote.

In addition, Members who have preprinted their amendments in the

RECORD prior to their consideration will be given priority in recognition to offer their amendment if otherwise consistent with House rules. Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this open rule which provides for the full and fair consideration of the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Act. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this very important legislation, which authorizes grants for wastewater and storm water management projects to address the need for infrastructure improvements in the beautiful Florida Keys.

I am extremely proud of the Florida Keys, a unique marine environment which includes the only living coral reef barrier ecosystem in North America. This chain of over 800 individual islands, or keys, provides significant recreational and commercial opportunities and are a favorite among scuba divers, anglers, bird watchers, and tourists of all kinds.

In 1990, Congress passed the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act, which directed the EPA and the State of Florida to establish a water quality steering committee for the sanctuary and develop a comprehensive water quality protection program.

That steering committee identified inadequate wastewater and storm water management systems as the largest man-made sources of pollution in the near shore waters off the Florida Keys. The cost of needed wastewater improvements is between \$184 to \$418 million, and the cost of necessary storm water management proposals is between \$370 and \$680 million.

This legislation, which will help preserve our national treasure, authorizes \$212 million in EPA grants to the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority, or other agencies of the State of Florida or of Monroe County, for projects to replace inadequate wastewater treatment systems and establish, replace, or improve storm water systems in Monroe County, Florida; and it requires that the non-Federal cost share for projects carried out under this bill shall be not less than 25 percent of the total.

I believe it is entirely appropriate for there to be a Federal role in cleaning up and preserving the delicate ecosystem in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary so that our children and their children, as well as generations of visitors from throughout the world, may be able to enjoy this extraordinary living coral reef barrier ecosystem, the only one in North America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of both this open rule and the underlying legislation, H.R. 673, the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Act of 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.